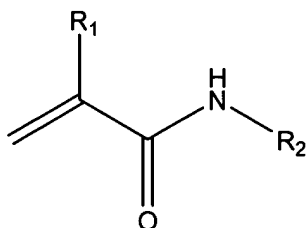


We Claim:

1. An ophthalmic lens comprising the cross-linked product of a first polymer, wherein said first polymer is a radiation-curable (meth)acrylamidoalkyl derivative of an oligomer or polymer containing a plurality of H-active groups, wherein said lens transmits at least 70% of visible light.
2. A lens as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said H-active groups are selected from the group consisting of -NH_2 groups and -OH groups.
3. A lens as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said (meth)acrylamidoalkyl derivative is obtained by substituting at least one hydrogen atom in H-active groups of the oligomer or polymer with radicals of a N-hydroxyalkyl (meth)acrylamide of the structure



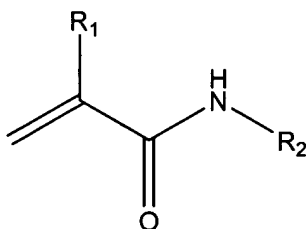
wherein R_1 is methyl or -H ; R_2 is $\text{-}[(\text{CH}_2)_x\text{-O-}]_y\text{-H}$, where x is 1, 2, or 3 and y is 1 – 5.

4. A lens as claimed in Claim 3, wherein R_1 is -H , x is 1 or 2, and y is 1 or 2.
5. A lens as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the N-hydroxyalkyl (meth)acrylamide is selected from the group consisting of N-2-hydroxyethyl acrylamide, N-2-hydroxyethyl methacrylamide, N-methylol acrylamide, and N-methylol methacrylamide.
6. A lens as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said lens has a water content between 40% and 80%
7. A lens as Claimed in Claim 2, wherein said first polymer is selected from the group consisting of polysaccharides, polysaccharide derivatives, poly(vinyl alcohol), poly(ethylene glycol), poly(propylene oxide), PEG-block-PPO, poly(acrylamide) poly(acrylamide), and copolymers thereof.
8. A lens as Claimed in Claim 7, wherein said first polymer is selected from the group consisting of polysaccharides and polysaccharide derivatives.

9. A lens as claimed in Claim 8, wherein said first polymer is selected from the group consisting of dextran, hydroxypropylcellulose, hydroxyethylcellulose, and polysaccharides comprising glucose monosaccharide units.
10. A lens as claimed in Claim 8, wherein said first polymer is selected from the group consisting of water-soluble polysaccharides and water-soluble polysaccharide derivatives.
11. A lens as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said first polymer is dextran and said N-hydroxyalkyl (meth)acrylamide is N-methylol acrylamide.
12. A lens as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said first polymer is soluble in water before it is crosslinked, and swellable in water after it is crosslinked.
13. A lens as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising the crosslinked product of a second polymer, wherein said second polymer is a water-soluble crosslinkable polymer.
14. A lens as claimed in Claim 13, wherein said second polymer is nelfilcon A.
15. A lens as claimed in Claim 14, wherein said nelfilcon A is present in the lens in an amount greater than said first polymer.
16. A method for making a contact lens material comprising the steps of:
 - a) preparing a substantially aqueous solution of a polymer containing a plurality of H-active groups;
 - b) adding an N-hydroxyalkyl (meth)acrylamide and a water-soluble polymerization inhibitor to the solution; and
 - c) adding a water-soluble condensation catalyst to the solution to cause a condensation reaction between the hydroxyl groups of the N-hydroxyalkyl (meth)acrylamide and the H-active groups of the polymer.
17. A method for making a molding comprising the following steps:
 - a) preparing a substantially aqueous solution of a first polymer, wherein said first polymer is a radiation-curable (meth)acrylamidoalkyl derivative of an oligomer or polymer containing a plurality of H-active groups;
 - b) introducing the solution obtained into a mold;
 - c) exposing the polymer to radiation to crosslink the polymer; and

d) opening the mold such that the molding can be removed from the mold.

18. A method as claimed in Claim 17, wherein said H-active groups are selected from the group consisting of -NH_2 groups and -OH groups.
19. A method as claimed in Claim 17, wherein said (meth)acrylamidoalkyl derivative is obtained by substituting at least one hydrogen atom in H-active groups of the oligomer or polymer with radicals of a N-hydroxyalkyl (meth)acrylamide of the structure



wherein R_1 is methyl or -H ; R_2 is $\text{-}[(\text{CH}_2)_x\text{-O}]_y\text{-H}$, where x is 1, 2, or 3 and y is 1 – 5.

20. A method as claimed in Claim 19, wherein R_1 is -H , x is 1, and y is 1.
21. A method as claimed in Claim 20, wherein the N-hydroxyalkyl (meth)acrylamide is selected from the group consisting of N-2-hydroxyethyl acrylamide, N-2-hydroxyethyl methacrylamide, N-methylol acrylamide, and N-methylol methacrylamide.
22. A method as claimed in Claim 17, wherein said lens has a water content between 40% and 80%.
23. A method as Claimed in Claim 18, wherein said first polymer is selected from the group consisting of polysaccharides, polysaccharide derivatives, poly(vinyl alcohol), poly(ethylene glycol), poly(propylene oxide), PEG-block-PPO, poly(acrylamide) poly(acrylamide), and copolymers thereof.
24. A method as Claimed in Claim 23, wherein said first polymer is selected from the group consisting of polysaccharides and polysaccharide derivatives.
25. A method as claimed in Claim 24, wherein said first polymer is selected from the group consisting of dextran, hydroxypropylcellulose, hydroxyethylcellulose, and polysaccharides comprising glucose monosaccharide units.

26. A method as claimed in Claim 24, wherein said first polymer is selected from the group consisting of water-soluble polysaccharides and water-soluble polysaccharide derivatives.
27. A method as claimed in Claim 17, wherein said first polymer is dextran and said N-hydroxyalkyl (meth)acrylamide is N-methylol acrylamide.
28. A method as claimed in Claim 17, wherein said first polymer is soluble in water before it is crosslinked, and swellable in water after it is crosslinked.
29. A method as claimed in Claim 17, wherein said solution further comprises second polymer, wherein said second polymer is a water-soluble crosslinkable polymer.
30. A method as claimed in Claim 29, wherein said second polymer is nelfilcon A.
31. A method as claimed in Claim 30, wherein said nelfilcon A is present in the lens in an amount greater than said first polymer.